

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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INT-05 DLOS-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-03

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2150

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2630

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EFIS, IC

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, OCTOBER 18-19: FISHERIES
POLICY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 10178

1. AS REPORTED EC BRUSSELS 10274, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS
WERE UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT DURING THEIR OCTOBER 18-19
COUNCIL MEETING ON THE DATE FOR EXTENDING THE EC FISHING
ZONE TO 200 MILES OR ON THE DIRECTIVES FOR EXTERNAL FISHING
NEGOTIATIONS. THE FILE WILL NOW GO BACK TO COREPER AND WILL
BE DISCUSSED AGAIN BY THE MINISTERS DURING THEIR SPECIAL
MEETING IN THE HAGUE OCTOBER 29-30.

2. THE IMPASSE DEVELOPED OVER IRISH INSISTENCE ON SIMUL-
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TANEOUS AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ELEMENTS IN THE PROPOSED INTERNAL

EC FISHING REGIME. IN HIS INITIAL STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 18, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD STRESSED THREE PRE-CONDITIONS TO IRISH AGREEMENT ON A DATE FOR EXTENDED LIMITS AND NEGOTIATING MANDATES: (A) ACCEPTANCE OF A 50-MILE EXCLUSIVE COASTAL ZONE; (B) INSERTION INTO A QUOTA SYSTEM OF A GROWTH FACTOR TO ALLOW FOR EXPANSION OF THE DEVELOPING IRISH FISHING INDUSTRY; (C) COMMUNITY FINANCING OF PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT MEASURES.

3. THESE POINTS WERE DISCUSSED OVERNIGHT BY THE WORKING GROUP WHICH REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL OCTOBER 19. THE WORKING GROUP REPORT, A COPY OF WHICH WAS SHOWN TO MISSION OFFICER, MADE NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESOLVING DIFFERENCES. IT NOTED THAT THE UK AND ITALY ALSO CLAIMED DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS ON THE INTERNAL REGIME AND THAT MOST DELEGATIONS WISHED TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE IMPLICATIONS OF EXCLUSIVE COASTAL BANDS. THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS INDICATED THAT THEY COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT 12-MILE BANDS, BUT ONLY UNTIL THE 1982 EXPIRATION DATE SPECIFIED IN THE ROME TREATY.

4. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND, WHO PRESSED HARD FOR ACTION ON BOTH 200-MILE LIMITS AND NEGOTIATING MANDATES, LATER TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE COUNCIL'S FAILURE TO ACT HAD BEEN "DISAPPOINTING BUT NO DISASTROUS". HE WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE PRESS WHETHER HE HAD NOT BEEN "HIDING BEHIND FITZGERALD'S COAT TAILS" ON THE 50-MILE LIMIT ISSUE. CROSLAND COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT WHILE THE GOI MAINTAINED A LINK BETWEEN PROGRESS ON BOTH THE INTERNAL REGIME AND EXTERNAL POLICY, THE UK'S FIRST PRIORITIES REMAINED 200-MILE LIMITS AND THIRD COUNTRY NEGOTIATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT IRELAND WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN COASTAL FISHING, WHILE THE UK WAS CONCERNED WITH FISHING IN EXTERNAL WATERS AS WELL. HE STATED THAT THE UK'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF 50 MILE EXCLUSIVE COASTAL BANDS REMAINS UNCHANGED.

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6. AT THE CLOSE OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, CROSLAND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED AT THE SPECIAL OCTOBER 29-30 MEETING. FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT IN THE HAGUE, HE WARNED, WOULD LEAVE THE UK FREE TO NEGOTIATE BILATERALLY WITH ICELAND.
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